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Victoria and Napoleon.

Queen Victoria once gave a remarkable description of her visit to the tomb of Napoleon L during the reign of Napoleon III. "The coffin is not yet side chapel of St. Jerome. Into this the emperor led me, and there I stood from writing books for years. Seven at the arm of Napoleon III., his of the plays were so badly done that nephew, before the coffin of England's I tore them up before showing them bitterest foe. I. the granddaughter of that king who hated him most and who most vigorously opposed him and this very nephew, who bears his name, being my nearest and dearest ally! The organ of the church was playing 'God Save the Queen' at the time, and this solemn scene took place by torchlight and during a thunderstorm. Strange and wonderful indeed!"

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sively hot cloths.

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(Continued from Page 2)

and ambling gait had become as familiar to them as one of their kind. "Fishers by the sea, with spear poised, stopped their spear in midair to sing out 'alohas' to his call from a neighboring crag; ofttimes in the same spirit was he welcomed by the waders on the beach at night, who flashed a torch to attract the finny tribe. Like them, too, he wore sandals with wooden heels and toe pieces to spare the bare feet from the coral pebbles in the shallow waters. From the native, too, he had learned to manage a surfboat as skillfully as any Kanaka, a thing possible to only a strangely privileged few who have not grown up in the 'strange south seas.'

"It was difficult to tell just when Mr. London did the quantity of writing that came from his pen. He was so much in evidence in Honolulu and elsewhere in the islands that it seemed hardly possible to associate him with the prolific writer he was known to be. A novel of his 'Jerry,' a dog story, announced to begin as a serial in one of the magazines next month, was finished in Honolulu early in 1905, while another dog novel to be called 'Michael' (each of about 80, 000 words) was about completed when he and Mrs. London sailed for San Francisco in July of last year."

The George H. Doran Co. furnishes information concerning the whereabouts of some English writers. Bennett, author of "The Lion's Share," is now a press agent and secret service man for the Britsh cause. E. V. Lucas, author of "More Wanderings in London" and three other new volumes, is director of Sir J. M. Barrie's base hospital in Norman Angell, author of "The World's Highway," is taking a compulsory vacation at a German con centration camp near Berlin. Hugh Walpole is serving as an hospital aide with the Russians on the Roumanian border.

"The Harbor" is Ernest Poole's first novel, but "Take Your Medielne," which he wrote in collaboration with Harriet Ford, is by no means his first play. He conferred his experience to a recent interviewer: "Some time ago I became so inshe wrote, "but is in a smail terested in this way that I wrote nine or ten plays, which kept me away to anybody. One was produced in New York without success, the ninth was called 'None so Blind.' John Mason took the leading man's part and it had a fairly good run here in New York." It seems likely that when Mr. Poole has "Taken His Medicine" he will go back to novel writing. It is not a glittering suc-

> The War Too Big for Literature Rudyard Kipling has turned his verse of the Jutland sea fight, based on admiralty reports of the action. No doubt his is as competent and practised a hand as there is to essay the task; and what a poet can do to vivify a routine official report and make it glow we know from Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade," Cowper's "Toll for the Brave" and a hunared other stirring poems. Surely England's greatest sea battle Iraialgar was something to

even a dull muse! Yet Kipling's account of it, as respects at least the first instalment is disappointing. The verses which introduce it lack distinction and the prose narrative is commonplace. It is conceivable that the war should be too much for the poets. It is on too vast a scale for them to visualize, and their imagination is benumbed by events so graphic in themselves that the deed itself shames the fancy. What can a poet say to heighten the effect in the human mind of a death struggle of aeroplanes aloft or of a death-blow to a great passenger ship under water?

The prose writers have had the better of the poets in this matter, but they in turn have had to yield the plan to the reporters, who have mere ly described whaot they saw without rhetorical embellishment. The facts have spoken for themselves, and the highest interest has lain in the plain, unvarnished tale of the taking of trench or of a charge against a fortified hill identified only by a number The war has produced whole libraries of official documents, white, blue and yellow books, quantities of fiction and masses of printed matter of all descriptions bearing on it. But of literature in the accepted sense relating to it and of a quality to outlast it, there has been none at all. It has been too big for the human intellect to comprehend while it has been in progress, and it will long tax the capacity of the historians after it is

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